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Tongsun Park Says He Gave Rice Miller \$80,000

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WASHINGTON, March 5 — Tongsun Park has told Federal investigators that he paid a politically prominent Louisiana rice miller \$80,000 to deflect rice from the domestic market for sale to South Korea so as to maintain his position as the key agent for the Korean Government, according to transcripts of his interrogation in Seoul.

Mr. Park told a team of Department of Justice lawyers that he withdrew \$130,000 in cash from a secret Bahamian bank account in early 1973 and delivered \$50,000 of it to former Representative Otto E. Passman, Democrat of Louisiana,

and \$80,000 of it to Gordon Dore (pronounced Doray) of Crowley, La.

Investigators for the House ethics committee, before which Mr. Park testified last week, are expected to concentrate on this transaction over the next few days as they attempt to unravel Mr. Park's relationship with Mr. Passman, who at that time headed a House subcommittee that directed foreign sales of surplus rice.

According to the transcript, Mr. Park presented this picture of his activities:

He testified in Korea in January that he paid Mr. Passman \$200,000 under an informal \$50,000-a-year arrangement from 1972 to 1975 to use his influence with the South Korea Government to

keep Mr. Park as its purchasing agent for rice.

Mr. Passman, he said, was part of a group of Congressmen from rice states who tried to put pressure on South Korea to buy larger amounts of rice under the foreign sales program because the terms were more favorable to American producers than were private markets.

Mr. Park told investigators that California, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana "were five states who always put pressure on Koreans to buy more rice."

He said that his first contact with Louisiana political figures was in 1970 when he met Gov. Edwin W. Edwards, then a Democratic member of Congress.

Mr. Edwards in turn, introduced him to Mr. Passman.

In 1972, he said, he began taking a role as political contributor to Louisiana politicians. He said he had discussed a contribution for the late Senator Allen J. Ellender with Mr. Dore, who was involved in his campaign, but Mr. Ellender's death interrupted the plan.

Reports 20c-a-Ton Offer

He testified that he contributed \$5,000 to the campaign of Representative John B. Breaux, a Democrat who replaced Mr. Edwards in the House, through Mr. Dore. He also said that in the summer of 1972 he made political appearances in Louisiana for Mr. Passman and other Democrats at which he said that he planned to buy rice.

The following spring, Mr. Park said, rice was a "buyers market," and he off-

ered to pay Mr. Dore 20 cents a ton, which he said came to some \$80,000, to deflect rice to Korea. He told the investigators: "Gordon Dore, as a large miller in Louisiana, could have bought the rice himself and milled it to distribute to his longtime customers such as Kellogg and other people."

"Because of friendship, I could have said, 'Gordon, would you make that milled rice that you're holding available to us, and worry about your customers later'."

He testified that he withdrew \$130,000 in cash from his Bahamian bank account and put it into two packages of \$50,000 and \$80,000 and flew to Louisiana. But in his Seoul testimony, Mr. Park said he could not recall whether he handed the \$80,000 to Mr. Dore directly or gave the money to Mr. Passman to give to Mr. Dore. He has testified that he did give

Mr. Passman the \$50,000 part.

Government sources said that Federal investigators had endeavored to discover whether in fact the \$80,000 payment was solely part of a rice transaction or was used for political payments. Repeated attempts to reach Mr. Dore at his Crowley home have been unsuccessful. Joseph Alioto, Mr. Dore's lawyer, said in a recent telephone interview that his client had done nothing improper.

Israeli Engineers Begin Strike

TEL AVIV, March 5 (Reuters)—Some 10,000 Israeli communications engineers began a 24-hour strike today, partially disabling the country's radio and television services. A spokesman for the workers said that they were striking because of the high rate of inflation. They declared that pay increases had failed to make up for price rises.